(d) No model legal framework has been developed. However, legal/regulatory frameworks adopted by select States/UTs have been circulated to all State Governments for information sharing. These models have been circulated very recently and State Governments would need time to develop their own legal frameworks.

Reservation for tribals and dalits in industries

†*396. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted a "Group of Ministers" for obtaining their suggestions with regard to the reservation in industries for tribals and dalits;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Group of Ministers had a discussion on this matter with top representatives of industries; and

(c) if so, the reaction of representatives of industries?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) Representatives of industry are in favour of affirmative action to enhance employability of SC/ST candidates, but not in favour of reservation. A Coordination Committee was set up in October, 2006 to carry forward the dialogue with Industry on affirmative action in the private sector. The Committee held meetings with representatives of Apex Industry Chambers/Associations during 2006-08.

Problem of Sikhs in Afghanistan

*397. SHRI O. T. LEPCHA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the reports of religious persecution of Sikh minorities in Afghanistan;

(b) whether Government has ascertained the fact regarding imposition of pilgrimage tax on the Sikhs in Afghanistan;

(c) whether Government has taken up the issue with the Government of Afghanistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) No incident of complaint of religious persecution of Sikhs in Afghanistan has come to notice.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.